

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-42 are pending. Claim 1 is amended and claim 5 is canceled. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-42, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 3-4, 11-14, 17, 20-25, 27-30, and 33-35, and 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Etter.

However, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the element of claim 5 which is indicated to be allowable. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to recite that each of the first and second signal processors comprises a static gain control component and a dynamic gain control component.

In contrast, Etter neither discloses nor suggests providing signal processors having a static gain control component and a dynamic gain control component, as generally recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 as well as claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Etter in view of well known prior art.

However, because claims 15 and 16 are dependent from claim 1, claims 15 and 16 are also believed to be allowable for at least similar reasons as those discussed above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR

1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 05-008).

Respectfully submitted,



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